

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Wadebridge Rural District
Council

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

BODMIN :
PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.

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TO THE WADEBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1948.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)—88,064.

Estimated mid-year population—13,850.

Number of inhabited houses—4,550.

Rateable value—£68,203.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£284-16-7.

The Rural District is composed of 19 Parishes with populations varying between 200—2,500, the largest concentration occurring in the market town of Wadebridge. The area is predominantly agricultural.

Vital Statistics

Live births

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	138	104	242
Illegitimate	11	4	15
Total—	149	108	257

Crude birth rate 18·5 per 1,000 of the population.

Birth rate in England and Wales 17·9 per 1,000 of the population.

Still Births

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total—	7	2	9

Still birth rate 33·6 per 1,000 total births or ·65 per 1,000 of the population.

Still birth rate in England and Wales 23·1 per 1,000 births or ·42 per 1,000 of the population.

Infant mortality**Deaths under one Year.**

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Total—	9	5	14

Infant mortality rate 54·4 per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality rate in England and Wales 34 per 1,000 live births.

Nine of the above deaths occurred before the age of one month, the causes being prematurity, 3. Congenital Malformations, birth injuries etc. 6. Two infant deaths occurred from whooping cough.

Deaths

M.	F.	Total
86	85	171

Crude death rate 12·25 per 1,000 of the population.
Death rate in England and Wales 10·8 per 1,000 of the population.

•Chief causes of death—

	M.	F.	Total
Heart diseases	21	19	40
Circulatory diseases	4	3	7
Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	8	8	16
Cancer	7	17	24
Cerebro vascular diseases	10	12	22
Nephritis	3	2	5
Accident and violent	6	2	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Total—	62	65	127

Deaths by ages

0	—one month	9
One month—	one year	5
One year —	20 years	1
21 years —	40 years	10
41 years —	60 years	22
61 years —	70 years	32
71 years —	80 years	52
81 years —	90 years	34
90 years and over		6

Total— 171

General provisions of Health Services

The Services for the year 1948 have been considerably modified by the provisions of the Health Services Act, 1946, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948.

Laboratory facilities

The Department of Pathology, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, under the direction of Dr. Hocking, has been used in relation to infectious diseases. The Laboratory of the Public Analyst, Mr. Tickle, of Exeter, has been used for the routine examination of water samples

Ambulance facilities

The Area has continued to be served by the St. John and Red Cross Ambulance Service in Wadebridge, on a voluntary basis until the 5th July. Subsequently the service has been supplied by the same ambulance under the provisions of the County's arrangements, Wadebridge being classified as a Country Centre, manned by voluntary personnel.

Hospitals

There is no hospital in the Rural District, but hospital services are available at the East Cornwall Hospital, Bodmin, Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro, and The Prince of Wales Hospital in Plymouth.

Infectious disease cases requiring hospitalisation are accommodated in the Isolation Hospital in Truro

Maternity and Child Welfare

The County Council is the supervising authority for the Midwives Acts, and for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes.

The Domicillary Midwifery of the District is carried out by the District Nurse Midwives of the County Nursing Association, which since 5th July, 1948, has been absorbed into the County Council's provisions under the new Act.

The County maintains the Infant Welfare Centre held in Wadebridge, where vaccination and immunisation facilities are available.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

TABLE 1.

Notified Infectious Diseases and Deaths, from Infectious Diseases for 1948.

Disease.	Notified Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	219	0
Whooping Cough	42	2
Pneumonia	2	7
Dysentery	2	0
Erysipelas	1	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0

There were no cases of diphtheria notified. A considerable outbreak of measles occurred extending over the period February to June.

Immunisation against diphtheria is available at the Infant Welfare Centre and at the Practitioner's Surgery. This Service has been continued under the County Council's arrangements since 5th July.

Vaccination has also been made available to the public under the same arrangements since the new Act came into operation.

Tuberculosis.

TABLE 2.

AGES	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Age period								
0 — 5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
6 — 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 — 25	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
26 — 35	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
36 — 45	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
46 — 55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56 — 65	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Total—	4	6	2	2	3	3	0	0

An increase in the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis is reported over last year as follows—

	1948	1947
Respiratory	10	5
Non-respiratory	4	1

No action has been taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 Public Health Act 1936, relating to compulsory hospitalisation.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action has been taken under this section, relating to persons in need of care and attention.

Sewage, Drainage, etc.

Considerable demands have been made for the services of cesspit emptier since its delivery in April. These services cover both privately owned and Council property.

Repeated satisfactory analysis of the sewage effluent from the disposal works at St. Kew Highway caused a complete survey of the village to be made and the present and future requirements estimated.

These were found to be beyond the capabilities of the existing works and the Council decided to extend the works in accordance with the scheme submitted by this department incorporating Tuke and Bell's specialised equipment.

Housing.

The Council's Traditional Housing Programme has continued throughout the year, the following houses have been completed and occupied :—

Wadebridge Parish	.....	18
St. Issey Parish	.....	8
St. Endellion Parish	.....	6
St. Kew Parish	.....	2
St. Tudy Parish	.....	4
Lanhydrock Parish	.....	2
		<hr/>
Total	.....	40

Rural Housing Survey.

The Rural Housing Survey was completed in the Parish of Blisland, 164 properties were inspected falling under the following categories:—

No. of Houses.	Catagories.				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
164	5	27	39	62	31

The survey is now in progress in the Parish of St. Kew, leaving only the Parishes of Wadebridge and St. Endellion to be surveyed for the completion of the whole district.

Refuse Collection.

The collection of household refuse and salvage (paper) has been maintained throughout the year and the arrival of the new refuse collection vehicle made more frequent collections possible. Seven of the 19 Parishes are now visited weekly.

Meat Inspection.

The condition of the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse remains the same. The number of animals slaughtered and examined during the year are as follows:—

	Cattle including Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,150	Not known	1,071	2,681	76
Number inspected	1,150	Not known	1,071	2,681	76
All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned.	8	4	9	70	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	523	2	3	167	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	46·174	Not known	1·12	8 84	14·47
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.	20	32	Nil	2	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	73	Nil	3	2	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	8·0	Not known	·28	·1	2·63

Milk and Dairies.

The Department has again been inundated with applications for milk selling contracts from farmers and small holders, in each case the various premises have been inspected and suitable recommendations made where necessary to bring the buildings into conformity with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Orders—Regulations, etc.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

No complaints have been received from H.M. Factories Inspectorate in respect of premises within

the above category. Various routine inspections have been made and the department has commenced the survey of factories and the issue of Certificates of adequate means of escape from fire in accordance with the requirements of the Act of 1937.

Rodent Control.

No statutory actions have been required under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, or relevant Orders, but the Council's Rodent Control Officer has continued the free treatment of domestic premises and business premises under contract as prescribed by the Ministry's scheme.

Foreshores.

The life saving apparatus on the beaches has been renewed where necessary, and kept under monthly surveillance to ensure constant efficiency, in addition the beaches have been maintained from the point of view of cleanliness and the burial of carcasses washed up by tides.

Infectious Diseases—Fumigation.

All cases of notifiable diseases occurring in the district have been visited and where necessary fumigation carried out.

Tents, Vans and Sheds—Camping Ground.

The department has dealt with a considerable number of applications for licences in respect of moveable dwellings, etc. The necessary inspections have been made but no licences have been granted.

Water Supplies

- (i) The supply of water both piped and from wells has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.
- (ii) No samples have been taken from piped supplies
- (iii) The piped supply in Wadebridge is plumbo-solvent, for this reason the Bye-laws do not permit the use of lead pipes.
- (iv) When pollution is suspected in wells vested in the local authority the water is sampled and if necessary the well is cleaned out, sterilized, and a further sample submitted for analysis. Where necessary re-covering and lining is also included in the works.
- (v) The following Parishes are served by a piped water supply :—

Parish.	No. of Population.	No. of Dwelling Houses
St. Minver Highlands	788	341
St. Minver Lowlands	1,182	418
St. Endellion	1,241	498
St. Kew	857	275
Wadebridge	2,500	800

The first four Parishes are served by the North Cornwall Joint Water Board, whilst Wadebridge is an independent supply administered by the Rural District Council.

I remain, .

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 84

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